



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

First United Methodist Church
915 E. 4th St., Tucson, AZ 85719
www.firstchurchtucson.org

1.4.2021

First Church Tucson is an inclusive multi-ethnic faith community, a reconciling congregation of the United Methodist Church.

Established in 1879 as the first protestant church in our city, First Church Tucson continues to pave the way in creating a faith community that embraces all peoples into the grace of God.

As a courageous family of faith, we celebrate the diversity of all God's children, welcome everyone to share in God's love and grace, and offer a sanctuary of hope.

We seek to be in ministry with all God's people, regardless of gender, race, age, class, ethnicity, culture, country of origin, ability and disability, and sexual orientation.

We welcome you to join in our journey of faith through worship, prayer, Bible study, and service for social justice and ministries of compassion.

At First Church Tucson,
you have a home.
At First Church Tucson,
You have a family of faith.
At First Church Tucson,
you belong.



“Blessings on this New Year”

By Rev. Paul H. Cho

There is a phrase in the Korean language, “새해 복 많이 받으세요 (sae-hae-bok-mani-ba-deu-se-yo)” which translates to the title above. To be more accurate, the blessing insists that one is blessed *tremendously*. “Tremendous blessings to you, this New Year!” I may be biased, but I feel the Korean expression better conveys my joy and hope for the other than the “Happy New Year” expression we share in the West.

To be clear, the expression is rooted in native ancestral shamanism and is common throughout the East. With the dawn of Western Christianity, much of our native spiritual practices were shunned and forbidden, but some values were found to be shared. Values such as selflessness, prayer, and in this case, blessings from above. It is a prayer no longer to our deceased ancestors, but to a God who is alive, faithful, and good.

In that same spirit, I offer this prayer for you. May God bless you tremendously this new year! May God be exceedingly gracious to you. And may an even deeper and richer love of Christ fill you and your loved ones this new year!

Pastor Paul Cho

THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING LIVE!

Find us on Youtube for a live stream of our Sunday morning reflection followed immediately with Zoom fellowship gathering.

Sundays @ 10AM (English), 11:30AM (Korean)
Visit <https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube> and subscribe to the channel. (Address is case-sensitive.)

First Church Fellowship is on Zoom
<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/97274927766?pwd=bVlqNmZjTk84bHFHd0JRSOU5R0c4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 972 7492 7766 Passcode: 6226481

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한국어 사역

주일 오전 11:30에 Youtube에서 말씀 묵상 나눔이 있습니다. <https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube>

이어서 Zoom에서 교제에 시간이 있습니다.
<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/97274927766?pwd=bVlqNmZjTk84bHFHd0JRSOU5R0c4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 972 7492 7766 Passcode: 6226481

금주 금요일 오후 7시 모임은 없습니다.

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WEEKDAY ONLINE GATHERINGS

Our weekday online gatherings remain on winter break. We invite you to pray about and join in this new season for spiritual formation beginning January 11th, 2021.

Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-A classic UM small group accountability and fellowship on Monday Evenings at 4:30PM.

Exploring Biblical Wisdom (EBW)

-A lectio divina format biblical commentary

with small group sharing on Tuesday Mornings at 11AM.

Music Workshop (MW)

-A series of studies exploring the width of church and world music on Wednesday Evenings at 5:30PM.

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-An open conversation based book study on Progressive Christian theology on Thursday Afternoons at 2PM.

Not seeing something of interest?
Consider starting your own group!
We are looking for new hosts
to explore new areas of interest.
Contact pastor@firstchurchtucson.org

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MINISTRY TEAM ORIENTATION

Do you have a hobby that has helped you throughout the pandemic? Are you looking for ways to collaborate with others for the good of the community? Are you deeply passionate about something but feel alone in it?

You are invited to our Ministry Team Orientation! We will gather online via Zoom.

Come to dream, explore, and share your ideas for ministry! Pastor Paul will assist you in breaking down the steps to shape your ideas, passions, and interests into transformative ministries.

Come with excitement for what God is doing in our midst! Jan 10th @ 1:30 PM
<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/97274927766?pwd=bVlqNmZjTk84bHFHd0JRSOU5R0c4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 972 7492 7766 Passcode: 6226481

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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With the rise in COVID-19 cases, we offer our prayers for those in our community who are suffering under its grip, both those who are ill and those caring for them.

Particularly, we lift up Pastor Raven Gaston. Cards for Pastor Raven may be written to: 2607 N. 51st St. Phoenix, AZ 85008.

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We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

St. Paul's UMC, Tucson
San Pedro Valley UMC, Benson
Trinity UMC, Bisbee

SUPPORT FIRST CHURCH TUCSON

Head to our website, www.firstchurchtucson.org to give online. As always, you can mail in checks to the church office at the address printed on the cover. Alternatively, have your IRA advisor automatically make payments from your IRA.

When we give to God from our hearts, it is always enough. We see you. We thank you for your commitment to making a difference in our community.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Eunice Santos (Jan 7)

Steven Yoo (Jan 8)

(If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know so we can update our records!)

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SOUL KITCHEN

Do Nothing Tornado Cake

Carol Nelson

<http://skinnypoints.com/2018/02/01/nothing-tornado-cake/>

Ingredients

Cake:

2 c all purpose flour
1 tsp baking soda
2 c granulated sugar
2 large eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
20 oz can crushed pineapple

Topping:

½ c salted butter
½ tsp vanilla extract
⅔ c evaporated milk
1 c granulated sugar
1 c chopped pecans
1 c sweetened coconut flakes

Directions

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and grease a 9×13" baking pan with butter
2. In a large mixing bowl, mix together your flour, sugar, baking soda, eggs, vanilla, and crushed pineapple
3. Pour into your baking pan and bake for 40-45 minutes or until golden brown
4. Poke several holes in the cake with the handle of a wooden spoon.
5. In a medium sized saucepan, heat your butter, sugar, evaporated milk, and vanilla until it reaches a boil
6. Mix in your pecans and coconut and continue cooking for about 5 minutes on medium heat, stirring constantly
7. Pour your topping evenly over your cake, slice, and enjoy!

SONG FOR THOUGHT

“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” - **Emily Elliot**

The text of the Christmas hymn *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* was written by Emily E. S. Elliott in 1864. Emily Elliott (1836 - 1897) worked with rescue missions and Sunday Schools in England, where she was associated with the evangelical faction of the Anglican Church. Emily published several hymns throughout her life, but *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* was written specifically for children, so they could learn about Jesus' birth.

Timothy R. Matthews (1826 - 1910) composed the tune *Margaret* in 1876 for this text. Matthews was an English composer and organist. He wrote more than 100 hymns and was recognized as one of the leading organists of his time. Enjoy!

by **Lorena Suarez**
Director of Music Ministries

Lyrics:

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,
And in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing,
At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee."
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Suggested recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vspb7xpWdw>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Ephesians 1:3-14

The end of a year and the beginning of another gives us an opportunity to examine our lives, to make sense of all that has happened, and to set our minds anew on what matters most. As Christians, we might ask, “What does God have in plans for me this year?”

Ephesians 1 offers us insight to what God has in store for you!

V.3 God desires to bless us with every spiritual blessing. These blessings will not break, nor expire. They will not wear down or wear out, but remain eternally so. Blessings such as hope, peace, joy and love. Not only does God desire to bless you but God has already blessed us with these. It is only a matter for us to discover them anew!

V.4 God chooses you to be set apart. Just as we set apart things like our fine china, suits, and dresses, to set apart is to place special, distinguished value on it. God chooses you, to set you apart. That is, God places distinguished value on you. God cherishes you and desires to cherish you even more!

V.5-8 God desires to call you God’s own. We are adopted, redeemed, and forgiven so that we can be joined with God because God desires to be with you! You are awesome! You are beloved! You are a child of God!

The love of God may seem like familiar talk. How much more can there be to it, you ask? Oh, so much more! The depth and breath of the richness of God’s love is infinite!

Consider what we know of God’s love like the taste of emergency rations. When we are starving, any kind of food will taste good. Yet, it is still just basic nourishment. There is no comparison to that and a gourmet meal from a master chef. Indeed, we were starved of love and purpose before we met Christ, and the knowledge of God’s love was immensely good! Yet, there is so much more to God’s love than what we tasted at first. Imagine the greatness, the sweetness, the savory and delicious expressions and love God has yet in store for us, for our God is the Most Superior Master Chef of all!

This is what God has in plan for you this year. May we not settle for anything less!

by Rev. Paul Cho



www.firstchurchtucson.org

office@firstchurchtucson.org | pastor@firstchurchtucson.org
(Office) 520-622-6481 | (Pastor Paul) 520-850-4547